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INTELLIGENCE BRIEF ON POLISH INTEREST IN
GRAVITY METERS

1. The Poles are known to be interested in gravity meters, both geophysical and geodetic. It is also known that the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Central Institute of Geodesy and Cartography desire to obtain geodetic meters.
2. It is believed that the gravity meter desired by the Polish Academy of Sciences is destined for use in Antarctica, where the Poles plan to undertake, among other activities, a program of gravity surveys. The Polish Antarctic activities were announced suddenly in Moscow in September 1958. In our judgment, the activities are being undertaken upon Soviet initiative in order to serve Soviet political interests through the introduction of another Bloc country into Antarctica. The gravity survey undertaken by the Poles, using a Worden meter, would not only add data to the Soviet collection of world gravity data but would also provide more consistent results than are currently available from instruments being used by the Soviets, which are known to be unsatisfactory. It is our opinion that the Worden instruments would, in addition, be useful for the comparison of data and the derivation of correction values for data obtained by the Soviet instruments. Furthermore, we believe that such comparisons would be useful in connection with the Soviet's program for the development and testing of improved Soviet gravity meters, which is probably in progress in Antarctica.

3. The purpose of the gravity meter desired by the Central Institute of Geodesy and Cartography is to improve Polish gravity coverage by increasing the network of points and by improving the quality of the observations through the use of a better instrument. Gravity data are basic to the establishment of the new Polish triangulation, which is being undertaken at Soviet request and according to Soviet specifications as a part of the program to convert the individual geodetic systems of the European satellites into the Soviet geodetic and mapping system. This extensive effort is part of the Soviet objective to establish a world geodetic system. Such a system would serve to improve capabilities for relating launch sites to targets in ICBM operations.

4. Within the last few months efforts have been made by US officials to obtain recent Polish topographic maps and geodetic data. To some extent, cordial and informative relations have been established between the two countries, but the Poles have nevertheless, refused to make the maps and data available to the US. This denial is significantly disadvantageous to the US and indicates that in this field the Poles are siding with the Soviets.